UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/701
29 July 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 29 JULY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the joint statement of 28 July 1998 by Mr. Emomali Sharipovich Rakhmanov, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, and Mr. Said Abdullo Nuri, Chairman of the National Reconciliation Commission.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rashid ALIMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Tajikistan to
the United Nations

Annex

Joint statement by Mr. Emomali Sharipovich Rakhmanov, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, and Mr. Said Abdullo Nuri, Chairman of the National Reconciliation Commission

The signing of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan and the constructive work of the National Reconciliation Commission in implementing the provisions of that historic document were the result of intensive joint efforts by the leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan and the United Tajik Opposition (UTO).

The practical results achieved in the course of laying the foundations for a peaceful life were greeted with approval by all the inhabitants of the Republic and by all States and international organizations that desire peace for our people. All the efforts of the Tajik people are today directed to ensuring stability, and eliminating the consequences of military and political confrontation and mistrust; that is of itself a factor conducive to the renewal of the country's economy. The work performed so far by the Government and the National Reconciliation Commission is convincing proof that Tajikistan is confidently advancing along the path of peace and that no power is capable of reversing that process, for such is the choice of the people themselves.

Today, we can state as follows:

The National Reconciliation Commission is at work in Dushanbe and practically the entire leadership of the opposition forces has returned to the Homeland, and is living and working in the country's capital.

Representatives of the UTO have been appointed to a number of posts in the Government. Agreement has been reached in principle on the inclusion of its other representatives, on the basis of a 30 per cent quota, in the membership of the leadership and executive bodies.

A start has been made on swearing in the armed formations of the UTO and their reintegration in the structures of the government forces, which now number over 600 men. As the first stage in the reintegration, the military formations of the UTO have been formed into a battalion within the system of the Republic's Ministry of Defence. A joint subdivision has been formed consisting of military servicemen of the Ministry of Defence and the UTO numbering 220 men in order to ensure the safety of the international staff. Over 150 officers and men of the UTO have come back from the Islamic State of Afghanistan to their permanent places of deployment, and the remainder, who are currently in the territory of that country, will soon arrive.

The majority of those who participated in the military and political opposition have been granted amnesty and have been released from their places of confinement, and all prisoners of war have been released. In addition, the President of the country has sent to the Majlis-i Oli (Parliament) of Tajikistan a draft parliamentary resolution on a general amnesty which will cover the remainder of the participants in the conflict.

The refugees from the Islamic State of Afghanistan have all been repatriated and the process of repatriating refugees to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States is under way.

In the interest of peace and national accord, the President of the country has imposed a veto on the Political Parties Act of the Republic of Tajikistan which was adopted by the Majlis-i Oli and which prohibits the creation of parties on a religious basis. It has been sent to the Parliament for revision.

The subcommissions of the National Reconciliation Commission are intensively engaged in preparing a series of proposed amendments and additions to the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan.

A number of other measures have already been put into effect, but we acknowledge that the process of putting into effect all the provisions of the General Agreement is progressing slowly and we intend to do everything we can to expedite the implementation of the understandings reached.

However, it is no secret that enemies of the Tajik people and traitors are continuing to nurture insidious plans and will stop at nothing and use the most subtle devices to bring them to fulfilment. The people of the Republic were profoundly shaken by news of the tragic death of staff members of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan. We have no doubt that behind this terrorist act there is a clearly expressed political agenda. Those who carried out this infamous act were bent on undermining the peace process and the progress being made in implementing the programme of the post-conflict renewal of the economy of the country, and on impairing the political authority of the Republic of Tajikistan in the eyes of the world community.

An intensive investigation of the murder of the UNMOT staff is now under way. A fully qualified commission, the membership of which includes representatives of the Government, the National Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Mission of Observers, has been established. Three specially formed investigating groups are working on a number of scenarios. According to the law enforcement agencies, a great deal of information has been compiled, which gives grounds for expecting that the crime committed will soon be solved.

The Government of the country and the leadership of the United Tajik Opposition are determined to find the murderers and punish them with the full rigour of the laws of the Republic of Tajikistan. We have every reason to expect that the murderers will not escape just retribution.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the leadership of the United Tajik Opposition can, in all sincerity, assure the diplomatic and international missions accredited to Tajikistan that the Republic has sufficient forces to ensure their safety and the normal progress of their work in our country.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the leadership of the United Tajik Opposition state that the country has done, and continues to do, everything possible to ensure the successful completion of the process of establishing lasting peace and stability on Tajik soil, so as to direct all

efforts towards the accelerated implementation of the programmes for rebuilding the economy on market principles and ensuring stable development. In those conditions, the Republic of Tajikistan needs, as never before, the help and support of the world community not only in the political field but also in the economic field: that will enable the country more quickly to heal its wounds and bring about socio-economic and political transformations.

(Signed) Emomali RAKHMONOV
President of the Republic
of Tajikistan

(Signed) Said Abdullo NURI
Chairman of the National
Reconciliation Commission

Dushanbe, 28 July 1998